

**OFFICERS 2006-2008**

STEVE WEIR  
PRESIDENT  
Contra Costa County  
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sweir@cr.cccounty.us

REBECCA MARTINEZ  
VICE PRESIDENT  
Madera County

MIKEL HAAS  
TREASURER  
San Diego County

GAIL PELLERIN  
SECRETARY  
Santa Cruz County

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**APPOINTED:**

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DARLENE BLOOM  
Orange County  
CATHY DARLING  
Shasta County  
CANDACE GRUBBS  
Butte County  
JOSEPH HOLLAND  
Santa Barbara County  
DEAN LOGAN  
Los Angeles County  
JOHN MCKIBBEN  
Los Angeles County  
KATHIE MORAN  
Colusa County  
DOLORES PROVENCIO  
Imperial County  
ELMA ROSAS  
Santa Clara County  
KAY VINSON\*  
City Clerk, Murrieta  
\* non-voting member

**ELECTED:**

JULIE BUSTAMANTE  
Northern Area  
Lassen County  
BARBARA DUNMORE  
Southern Area  
Riverside County  
CANDY LOPEZ  
Bay Area  
Contra Costa County  
LEE LUNDRIGAN  
Central Area  
Stanislaus County  
JIM MCCAULEY  
Mother Lode Area  
Placer County

**ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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Los Angeles County  
MARSHA WHARFF  
Mendocino County

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES**

**CLERK OF THE BOARD:**

SACHI A. HAMAI  
Los Angeles County

**COUNTY CLERK:**

KATHIE MORAN  
Colusa County  
VICKI PETERSEN  
Sonoma County

**ELECTIONS:**

JILL LAVINE  
Sacramento County  
DEBORAH SEILER  
Solano County



# CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

May 29, 2007

Assembly Member Mary Salas  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0079

Dear Assembly Member Salas:

The Elections Legislative Committee of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) reviewed **AB 917** (as introduced February 22, 2007). This bill would require that on Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting systems no contests under separate headings shall appear on the same page. The bill also requires that in counties utilizing DRE voting systems, paper ballots shall be provided at the polls. We understand that the intention is to amend the bill to require that the number of paper ballots provided equal 10% of the registration of the precinct in a General Election, and 5% of the registration of each political party in a Primary Election.

Requiring each contest under a specific heading appear on a separate page on a DRE would require a rewrite of the software which would result in the systems having to go back through federal and state certification. This would be very costly, and though the costs are to be borne by the vendors, they must pass the increases along to the jurisdictions purchasing the equipment/upgrade. Further, a ballot laid out in such a manner would result in numerous screens and pages, the outcome of which would be voter fatigue and undoubtedly additional voter drop-off for "down-ballot" contests. We understand this legislation was prompted by a problem that occurred in Florida. We do not believe similar problems would be encountered in California, and have included copies of screen prints of DRE ballots for your reference.

Based on costs incurred as a result of conditions previously placed on the use of DRE's in California, the estimated statewide cost of providing paper ballots at the polls in DRE counties is between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000, respectively, for each Primary and General Election.

The Committee has taken a position of **Oppose** in regard to this bill. Should you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Sonoma County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor's Office (707) 565-1877.

Very truly yours,

Janice Atkinson,  
Correspondence Secretary  
Elections Legislative Committee  
California Association of Clerks  
and Election Officials

- c: Senator Ron Calderon, Chair, Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee
- Assembly Member Curren Price, Chair, Committee on Elections and Redistricting
- Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
- Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee